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## **ITEA Conference: Baltimore, MD** ***Conference Creates Lasting Impression with Students***

Many educators attended the International Technology Education Association conference held in Baltimore, Maryland on March 23-25, 2006. However, they were not the only ones in attendance. For the first time, a team of high school students attended the conference and presented Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering program, to teachers and administrators alike. Eight students from Greenfield-Central High School had the privilege of meeting and speaking with instructors and showing them how the program affected their education. I was one of the lucky eight.

The conference was an unforgettable experience for all of us. We were to introduce the Project Lead the Way program to anyone who decided to attend our presentation. Our team checked in early on the morning of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, ready to give it everything we had. Four students and three teachers gave a formal presentation, myself included. The other four students manned our display while we ‘performed.’ Everything went very well, and at almost every imaginable occasion, even better than we could hope. Our presentation room was overflowing with educators hoping to gain a better understanding of the program. At the end, a question and answer time dispelled any thoughts that we had failed in our presentation. Many people wanted to know more about what we had to say. Afterwards, we rejoined the rest of our team at the display. People approached us many times throughout the rest of the day, telling the team how well our presentation went and asking even more questions about the program. There are no words to describe the feeling of accomplishment that we all possessed by the end of the day.

Our only regret was that we could not stay at the conference longer, as it proved to be a thrilling experience. Weeks later, I still believe it was the experience of a lifetime. Very rarely is there an occasion where students are able to make an impression on educators that they have never met before. However, our thoughts and ideas did not fall upon deaf ears. We left that day with a sense of success unlike any other. Before attending the conference, we did not know what to expect for the reaction to our presentation. Now we can honestly say that we have grown as students with greater confidence in the technology education field than ever before.

Submitted by Catherine Hamilton, Sophomore, GCHS

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